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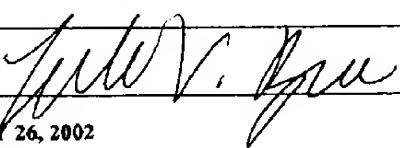
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Filing Date	November 13, 2000
First Named Inventor	Michael A. FREEMAN et al.
Group Art Unit	1712
Examiner Name	Philip Tucker
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	1894-00501
Attorney Docket Number	

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Michael A. FREEMAN, Monica §
NORMAN, Ping JIANG, David §
A. BALLARD, Kenneth C. SYMES, §
and Kishor K. MISTRY §
§ GROUP ART UNIT: 1712
S SERIAL NO.: 09/711,655 §
§ Examiner: P. Tucker
FILED: November 13, 2000 §
§
FOR: Method and Composition For The §
Triggered Release Of Polymer- §
Degrading Agents For Oil Field Use §

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments prior to examination on the merits:

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 18, 28, 29 and 38.

Please amend claims 1-17, 19-21, 30-36, 39-41, 43, 44, 46, 47 and 49, to read as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of degrading a predetermined substrate comprising:
providing a fluid or a solid containing a substrate-degrading agent inactivated by sequestration, said inactivated substrate-degrading agent being substantially unreactive under normal conditions of use of said fluid or solid or mixture thereof, and becoming active in responsive to a predetermined triggering signal that is not present under said normal conditions of use; and
applying said triggering signal, other than a change in temperature or mechanically crushing by closing fractures, to said fluid or solid such that said substrate-degrading agent becomes activated upon exposure to said triggering signal, the activated substrate-degrading agent being capable of degrading the substrate under degradation promoting conditions.
2. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said sequestration comprises encapsulation of said substrate-degrading agent to provide an inactivated substrate-degrading agent.